

Salisbury, North Carolina  
December 3, 2019

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Al Heggins, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem David Post; Council Members William Brian Miller, Karen Alexander, and Tamara Sheffield; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; Deputy City Clerk Tiffany Crook and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

**ABSENT:** City Clerk Diane Gilmore.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Heggins at 6:00 p.m. A moment of silence was taken.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Police Honor Guard presented Colors and led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

Ms. Mia Mason sang the National Anthem.

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Heggins welcomed all visitors present.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Heggins and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Post. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

## **NEW COUNCIL CONVENES**

Ms. Karen Kirks Alexander, Ms. Alvena (Al) Heggins, Mr. Brian Miller, Mr. David Post, and Ms. Tamara Sheffield, who were elected as City Council members in the November 5, 2019 regular municipal election for a two-year term, assembled in the Council Room of City Hall, 217 South Main Street, at 6:06 p.m. on December 3, 2019 for the purpose of being inducted into office.

Clerk of Superior Court Jeff Barger administered the oath of office to each of the recently elected Councilmembers.

Councilmember Brian Miller, as the senior member of Council, served as Temporary Chair to preside over the meeting for the purpose of electing a Mayor.

Temporary Chair Miller opened the floor to receive nominations for the office of Mayor for the City of Salisbury. Councilmember Heggins nominated Karen Kirks Alexander for the office of Mayor. There were no other nominations. Messrs. Miller and Post, and Mses. Alexander, Heggins and Sheffield voted AYE. By unanimous vote of the Council, Karen Kirks Alexander was elected Mayor for a two-year term beginning December 3, 2019.

Mayor Alexander asked her family members to join her as she took the oath of office. The oath of office of Mayor was administered to Karen Alexander by Mr. Barger.

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive nominations for the office of Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Post nominated Alvena (Al) Heggins to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. There were no other nominations. Messrs. Miller and Post, and Mses. Alexander, Heggins and Sheffield voted AYE. By unanimous vote of the Council, Al Heggins was elected Mayor Pro Tem for a two-year term beginning December 3, 2019.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked her daughter to join her as she took the oath of office. The oath of office of Mayor Pro Tem was administered to Al Heggins by Mr. Barger.

## **REMARKS FROM NEW COUNCIL**

Mayor Alexander opened the floor for comments from newly elected Councilmembers.

Councilmember Miller thanked his wife, friends, neighbors, and volunteers who helped in his candidacy and all those who participated in the voting process. He stated he is honored to serve.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked volunteers, voters, staff, and other election participants. She added it is an honor to serve the citizens of Salisbury.

Councilmember Post thanked staff, voters, family, volunteers, and all candidates who ran in the election. He commented on topics he looks forward to addressing during this term, and he thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked God, her family, friends, volunteers, staff, the Board of Elections, and those who participated in the campaign. She also thanked Mr. Barger for swearing in Council, and she thanked the citizens for the opportunity to continue to serve. She stated she will support Mayor Alexander and looks forward to working with each Councilmember.

Mayor Alexander thanked her family, friends, neighbors, campaign supporters, colleagues, staff and all candidates who ran in the election. She also thanked God for the opportunity to serve the community and expressed her excitement about Council and its members. She added she is eager to come together with community groups to support the children. She stated it is an honor to serve.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

(a) Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 19, 2019.

(b) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Police Department Controlled Substance Tax Fund Appropriation

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2019-2020 budget in the amount of \$4,100 to appropriate Police Department Controlled Substance Tax Funds.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019-2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TAX FUNDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 216, and is known as Ordinance 2019-59.)

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. James Kirks thanked his sister Karen Kirks Alexander for her service to the community. He stated his family is very proud of Mayor Alexander for the many roles she has taken on.

Ms. Pam Bloom thanked Council for its service, and she suggested Council Chambers be renamed, "The People's House," as an act to unite the community. She added she supports Council and looks forward to its support of building a K-8 school.

Ms. M. T. Sidoli congratulated the new Council. She stated the expectation of Council members is to respect one another and work together for the equity and prosperity of all citizens.

Mr. Mark Stephenson congratulated the new Council. He stated if the City is to thrive, a premier public school is needed. He thanked Council for its support of building a K-8 school.

Mr. Clyde requested a discussion regarding storm water fees be placed on the Agenda during this Council's term. He explained the fees are arbitrary and discriminatory and should be a tax.

Ms. Sue McHugh congratulated the new Council. She stated she represents the North Main neighborhood, and she is thankful for the street restriping which drastically slowed traffic in the area. She thanked the City for the BlockWork event and other facelift projects that encourage stewardship. She noted continued support is needed to build the neighborhood.

Mr. George Benson thanked the new Council for its continued service and Mayor Pro Tem Heggins for her dedication and courage. He urged Council to continue to move the City forward, and he encouraged citizens to vote and become more involved in the civic process.

Mr. John Leatherman congratulated the new Council and thanked them for their service. He asked Council to support the children of Knox Middle School by requesting the Board of Education present a plan and allow sufficient time for public comment.

Ms. Elizabeth Trick congratulated the new Council and thanked its members for supporting Knox Middle School and Overton Elementary School. She added difficult decisions must be made with limited resources, and she urged Council to continue to invest in the community and provide its support of building a K-8 school.

Mr. Johnathan Barbee stated he is proud of Council and thanked its members for their service. He stated he envisions positive things happening in the upcoming years.

Mr. Anthony Smith congratulated the new Council and requested they join members of the community and speak with School Board members and the Superintendent in support of building a K-8 school.

Ms. Susan Lee congratulated the new Council, and she explained the North Carolina School Justice Partnership (NCSJP) Program. She stated the NCSJP is recommended by the court system, and Rowan County is on the path to receive it. She requested Council make the NCSJP a priority during its term.

Mr. James White thanked Council for its service. He asked about sidewalks on Lash Drive. He added he would like to chair a committee dedicated to cleaning Salisbury and would like to see more restaurants in the area.

Mr. Bill Godair thanked Council for its service to the community. He urged community members to be considerate and to respect one another.

Mayor Alexander recognized exchange students from India who completed their semester at Livingstone College.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public comment session.

### **VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION- THE GABLES**

City Engineer Wendy Brindle addressed Council regarding the proposed annexation of the Gables at Kepley Farms Phase 5. She indicated the annexation includes the final plat Council adopted at its November 19, 2019 meeting which was contingent upon the annexation.

Ms. Brindle pointed out the annexation is in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 16A-58.1, and the requirements of the statute have been met. She noted the statute requires the annexation become effective within six months of the adoption of the Ordinance, and the Tax Assessor's office would like the City to make it effective by the last day of the year. She commented the Ordinance will be effective December 31, 2019 if it is adopted.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding the voluntary annexation of the Gables at Kepley Farms Phase 5.

There being no one to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public hearing.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance to extend the corporate limits of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, to include 20.198 acres, Tax Map 403

Parcel 001, the Gables at Kepley Farms Phase 5, effective December 31, 2019. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, TO INCLUDE 20.198 ACRES, TAX MAP 403 PARCEL 001, THE GABLES AT KEPLEY FARMS PHASE 5.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 217 – 218, and is known as Ordinance 2019-60.)

### **STREET CLOSING – 200 BLOCK OF WEST CEMETERY STREET**

City Engineer Wendy Brindle presented information regarding closing the 200 block of West Cemetery Street. She stated Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) requested the street be closed primarily for security reasons, and once the street is closed SRU could control access to the area. She explained the proposed street closing follows North Carolina General Statute 160A-299 and staff has found the closing will not be contrary to the public interest, and no individual will be deprived reasonable means of ingress or egress. She added the area to be closed extends slightly past the 200 block of West Cemetery Street and includes a remnant located west of Jackson Street. She commented the properties included in the street closing are owned by the City and consist of SRU facilities.

Mayor Alexander asked if the proposed street closing would affect any private property. Ms. Brindle commented it would not.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding closing the 200 block of West Cemetery Street.

There being no one to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if any residents would be affected by the street closing. Ms. Brindle responded that no residents would be affected.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution pertaining to the acceptance of an offer of dedication for public use of the 200 block of West Cemetery Street. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN OFFER OF DEDICATION FOR PUBLIC USE OF THE 200 BLOCK OF WEST CEMETERY STREET.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 35, and is known as Resolution 2019-25.)

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt an Order closing the 200 Block of West Cemetery Street. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

IT IS NOW, THEREFORE, ORDERED AND DECREED by the City Council of the City of Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, pursuant to and in accordance with the authority vested in this Council by the General Statutes of North Carolina, Section 160A-299, that a portion of the road commonly known as West Cemetery Street, which is more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a 5/8" rod Set having coordinates of N:702664.65, E:1564440.32 which is the northern intersection of North Church Street and West Cemetery Street; thence across West Cemetery Street with a bearing of S 47°08'52" W a distance of 45.00 feet to a 5/8" rod Set being the west intersection of West Cemetery Street and North Church Street; thence with the southwest boundary of West Cemetery Street a bearing of N 42°37'43" W a distance of 399.31 feet to a nail set which is the south intersection of West Cemetery Street and North Jackson Street; thence across North Jackson Street with a bearing of N 41°36'16" W a distance of 45.04 feet to a 5/8" rod Set which is the west intersection of West Cemetery Street and North Jackson Street; thence with the southwest boundary of West Cemetery Street a bearing of N 42°58'04" W a distance of 127.46 feet to a 5/8" rod Set which is on the southwest right-of-way of Norfolk Railway; thence with the southwest boundary of Norfolk Railway a bearing of S 70°34'55" E a distance of 95.83 feet to a 5/8" rod Set which is on the northwest edge of West Cemetery Street ; thence with West Cemetery Street a bearing of S 42°38'19" E a distance of 42.55 feet to a 5/8" rod Set which is the northern intersection of North Jackson Street and West Cemetery Street; thence across North Jackson Street with a bearing of S 42°40'10" E a distance of 45.01 feet to a point (not set nor found at the eastern intersection of North Jackson Street and West Cemetery Street; thence with West Cemetery Street a bearing of S 42°37'35" E a distance of 399.41 feet to the point of beginning.; containing 23751.70 square feet or 0.545 acres.

Be and the same is hereby forever CLOSED.

This the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2019.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY,  
NORTH CAROLINA

BY: s/s Karen Kirks Alexander  
Mayor

s/s Tiffany Crook  
Deputy City Clerk

## **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT**

Mayor Alexander explained Council is the requestor of a Resolution of Support to build a K-8 school in Salisbury, North Carolina. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins pointed out the original Resolution of Support was presented to Council by Mr. Corey Hill at its November 19, 2019 meeting.

Mayor Alexander convened a courtesy hearing, to receive comments regarding support for the construction of a K-8 school in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Mr. Jonathan Chamberlain stated he supports building a K-8 school in the City. He urged Council to consider a K-8 school as a community partnership that could include an early childhood development center in conjunction with local community agencies and local colleges and universities. He requested Council consider a community partnership to support the most vulnerable students and help build a K-8 school.

Mr. Corey Hill indicated he brought the proposed Resolution before Council because of the need in the community. He explained he met with community members to discuss what education in the community should look like. He added Salisbury is the County Seat of Rowan County and a significant contributor to the County tax base. He indicated the community needs a bigger voice in education to ensure students are ready to enter the work force. He commented the community wants to build a school, and he thanked Council for its support.

Mr. Chris Shelton noted he has children at Overton Elementary and Knox Middle Schools. He indicated what is being presented is not in the best interest of all families in the community. He added the School Board is tasked with a difficult decision due to economic challenges. He commented the community wants to work with the School Board to find a solution. He thanked Council for its leadership and support, and he pointed out the time for discussion is giving way to a need for action from a unified front.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the courtesy hearing.

Councilmember Post indicated a new school has not been built in the City since Overton Elementary School was constructed approximately 50 years ago. He pointed out a new school is needed and the proposed site is a great location. He stated the cost differential of approximately \$30 million for a K-8 school needs to be addressed. He explained updating Knox Middle School would cost approximately \$26 million and construction of a new school would cost approximately \$56 million. He noted discussion is needed regarding how to pay for the proposed K-8 school. He commented if the City is going to have a voice in the discussion it should be part of determining a solution.

Councilmember Miller explained the School Board is vested with the authority to make decisions regarding school construction. He clarified he wants to support the School Board in its decision making process, but he does not want to indicate or suggest that the City has any authority regarding the process. He stated closing Overton Elementary School would not be the best solution for the City and a short-term fix to the existing foot print of Knox Middle School is not the best



solution either. He added school assignment and the quality of the education has a direct economic impact on the community. He indicated the goal is to build the community and increase the tax base.

Mr. Miller stated Council does not have the decision making authority regarding educational matters, and the School Board does not take into account the tax base as part of its decision making process. He noted a better process is needed for communicating and collaborating with those who have the decision making authority in order to be an advocate to make good things happen.

Mr. Miller indicated he is going to support the proposed Resolution, but his preferred method would be to come together and talk about the issues. He added the proposed Resolution supports a K-8 school which seems to be the best outcome from the options that have been presented. He pointed out there are too many schools with too many capital needs, but no one wants the proposed school in their neighborhood. He stated he does not have all the facts as it relates to the situation, but if the options are to close Overton and temporarily fix Knox or invest in a new school, the community is better off with a new school. He suggested an overall plan is needed and the cost is challenging. He added the community must work together to find the right solution, and he is not sure of Council's role in the process. He stated it is an important economic issue for the community, and he will support the Resolution but additional information is needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins noted Mr. Miller's comments were well stated. She indicated Council has a good working relationship with the School Board. She stated conversations have taken place largely due to Mr. Miller's work to pull the School Board and Council together. She pointed out the proposed Resolution lets the School Board and the community know Council supports the proposal. She commented it is critical for the City to have a good educational system and a safe learning environment for students. She noted it is also important to have an environment that supports families.

Councilmember Sheffield stated Council does not envy the task that has been put in front of the School Board for the entire County. She noted Council can show its support of the community and the K-8 school Resolution. She stated it is a good first step to indicate the boards are in this together, and she added she supports the proposed Resolution. She commented it is important to support the School Board in doing the right thing for the students it serves.

Mayor Alexander stated she supports the School System, but she is not sure she has seen all of the proposals. She added whatever happens to Overton Elementary School and Knox Middle School is a 50-year decision that is important to the entire community. She noted education is a direct link to economic development. She commented she does not know all of the actual details regarding the condition of Overton Elementary School, but Knox Middle School needs to be replaced. She added she supports a Resolution stating Council supports the community, School Board, and County coming together to find a solution that is best for the community.

Mr. Post referenced Mr. Miller's comments regarding being an advocate and not trying to usurp authority from the School Board. He noted the last six words in the proposed Resolution state to move forward with this construction. He clarified Council would be passing a Resolution

urging the School Board to move forward with construction. Mayor Alexander asked if there is a way to modify the language of the proposed Resolution.

Mr. Miller suggested striking references to Knox Middle School and Overton Elementary School, and to state Council supports the idea. Mayor Alexander added Council supports construction on that site. Mr. Post suggested changing the word construction to consideration. Mayor Alexander agreed, and she questioned if simplicity is better in stating Council supports the community in its desire to have those schools stay open and/or rebuild Knox Middle School.

Ms. Heggins suggested the language read, "Now therefore be it resolved that the Salisbury City Council strongly supports a K-8 school located on the campus of Knox Middle School and Overton Elementary School and asks the Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education and the Rowan County Board of Commissioners to consider moving forward with this construction."

Mr. Post stated he is leery of the word "construction." Mayor Alexander agreed, and she pointed out a design process is needed to determine what will be constructed. Ms. Heggins stated Council is requesting moving forward with the construction process which includes a planning phase.

Mr. Miller suggested the verbiage, "Salisbury City Council strongly supports a K-8 school located on the campus of Knox Middle School and Overton Elementary School." Mayor Alexander agreed, and she asked City Attorney Graham Corriher for his thoughts. Mr. Corriher noted the recommended changes would work. City Manager Lane Bailey suggested Council proceed with its Agenda and when it gets to the City Attorney's report Mr. Corriher could present a clean version to Council for its consideration. By consensus, Council agreed.

## **RECESS**

Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to take a five minute recess and all Councilmembers in attendance agreed unanimously to recess.

The meeting reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

## **APPOINTMENTS – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

Planning Director Hannah Jacobson addressed Council regarding appointments to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. She pointed out there are 17 applications for review.

Mayor Alexander asked if the request is for the appointments to be made during the Council meeting. Ms. Jacobson commented it would be ideal. Mayor Alexander asked how many appointments would be made. Ms. Jacobson stated it was previously discussed up to 10 new appointments would be made, but the appointments are at Council's discretion.

Mayor Alexander stated it has not been Council's procedure in the past to discuss publicly why it would appoint one applicant over another. She suggested Council be allowed to give their recommendations to staff so the voting would not take place publicly. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins agreed that is how it has taken place in the past.

Mayor Alexander asked when the Steering Committee meeting would take place. Ms. Jacobson commented December 16, 2019 is the requested meeting date. Mayor Alexander asked City Manager Lane Bailey how the process could take place without being conducted publicly. Mr. Bailey suggested all applicants be invited to attend the meeting along with the current committee members before the year end, and the applicants that attend might be a good indication of who Council would like to appoint. He added the appointments could then take place at Council's January 7, 2019 meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins noted her concern would be giving special consideration to those who may not be able to attend the Steering Committee meeting due to the holiday season.

Councilmember Post requested the applicants be invited to attend the Steering Committee meeting on December 16, 2019. Mayor Alexander indicated the meeting may help the applicants determine if they are interested in joining the committee.

Council discussed the process for selecting candidates. Councilmember Post suggested using a doodle poll. Mayor Alexander agreed, and she noted she would work with the Clerk's Office to create the poll. Councilmember Sheffield commented she does not like that the appointments are being delayed, but she agreed it is not appropriate to discuss volunteers and appointments publicly. She added the appointments need to take place at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked City Attorney Graham Corriher if Council would be out of compliance if it used a doodle poll. Mr. Corriher commented the final vote will take place in an open meeting and would be a matter of public record. He indicated it would be a problem if a debate took place outside of open session between Councilmembers regarding the appointments.

Councilmember Post asked if he is allowed to speak with other Councilmembers regarding each applicant. Mr. Corriher noted meetings can take place as long as there is not a quorum of Council during the meetings. Council agreed that one-on-one meetings would be ideal. Councilmember Miller indicated the 10 appointments to the Steering committee should take place at Council's January 7, 2020 meeting. He asked Ms. Jacobson to forward information regarding the December 16, 2019 Steering Committee meeting to Council and invite all the applicants to attend.

Councilmember Sheffield asked when the appointments should be submitted. Councilmember Miller suggested December 20, 2019, and he requested the Clerk's office assist in getting responses from each Councilmember. Mayor Alexander asked for reminders to be sent out so the appointments would be completed on time. By consensus, Council agreed.

## **COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Alexander indicated after individual discussions with each Councilmember it was determined that most of the Council liaisons would remain the same. She commented Councilmember Sheffield is unable to attend the Tree Board meetings due to her work schedule, and she indicated she or Mayor Pro Tem Heggins could take over. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins commented she would serve as the Council liaison to the Tree Board. Councilmember Sheffield thanked Mayor Alexander and Mayor Pro Tem Heggins for their support. She added she has attended Tree Board meetings, but felt she had not been able to support it in the way she would have liked.

Mayor Alexander suggested the following liaison appointments to community groups:

- (a) ABC Board – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (b) Centralina Council of Governments – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (c) Centralina Council of Governments - Alternate – Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins
- (d) Community Appearance Commission – Councilmember Tamara Sheffield
- (e) Downtown Salisbury, Inc. – Councilmember Brian Miller
- (f) Economic Development Commission – Councilmember David Post
- (g) Fireman’s Relief Fund – Councilmember Brian Miller
- (h) Housing Advocacy Commission – Councilmember Tamara Sheffield
- (i) Human Relations Council – Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins
- (j) Metropolitan Planning Organization – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (k) Metropolitan Planning Organization-Alternate – Councilmember Tamara Sheffield
- (l) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (m) Rufty-Holmes Senior Center – Councilmember David Post
- (n) Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency – Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins
- (o) Rowan County Tourism Development Authority – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (p) Technical Review Committee – Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins
- (q) Transportation Advisory Board – Councilmember David Post
- (r) Tree Board – Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins
- (s) Youth Council – Councilmember David Post

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to approve Council liaisons to various Boards and Commissions. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voting AYE. (5-0)

## **CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

### **(a) Resolution of Support Revisions**

City Attorney Graham Corriher presented additions and revisions he made to the Resolution of Support to Council for its consideration. He reviewed the two paragraphs he added to the proposed Resolution, and he asked if Council was satisfied with the proposed revisions. By consensus, Council accepted the additional paragraphs to the Resolution of Support.

Mr. Corriher then read the entire Resolution. He pointed out Council had additional discussion regarding if it wanted to include additional language about a partnership between the School Board, City, and County or leave the Resolution to read the City supports a K-8 school. Councilmember Miller noted he liked what is being proposed. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins indicated the partnership was mentioned earlier in the Resolution. Mr. Corriher commented there is acknowledgement of the meeting between Council and the School Board and the meetings that did not involve the entire Council. He clarified he understands Council wants to continue with the meetings. Mayor Alexander agreed. By consensus, Council agreed to accept the proposed changes to the Resolution of Support.

Mr. Corey Hill commented the option that was voted on by the School Board was to remodel Knox Middle School and close Overton Elementary School. He indicated the proposal for a K-8 school is not an option that is currently being considered. He clarified the community wants the proposal of a K-8 school to be considered because it does not agree with remodeling Knox Middle School and closing Overton Elementary School. Mr. Corriher removed the language regarding the proposal.

Thereupon, Mayor Alexander made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution of Support to build a K-8 school in Salisbury, North Carolina as edited by the City Attorney. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voting AYE. (5-0)

#### RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A K-8 SCHOOL IN SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 36, and is known as Resolution 2019-26.)

#### (b) New Council

Mr. Corriher congratulated the new Council on their election, and he thanked them for all they do for the City. He commented he has enjoyed serving with them and looks forward to serving with them for the next two years. Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Corriher for his hard work and dedication. Councilmember Post noted he is mutually grateful for Mr. Corriher's service, and he added Mr. Corriher has made Council better as a whole.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Lane Bailey congratulated the new Council and thanked them for their willingness to serve. Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Bailey for his service, and she thanked staff for the work they do for the City.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(a) Candlelight Vigil**

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced the Salisbury Police Department Victim Witness Program will host a candlelight vigil on Thursday, December 5, 2019 beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the steps of the Rowan County Courthouse located at 210 North Main Street in recognition of Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month.

### **(b) Brunch with Santa**

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced the Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department will hold "Brunch with Santa" on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 10:00 am until noon at the Salisbury Civic Center. Participants will enjoy a pancake buffet, games, crafts and photos with Santa. Pre-registration is required by December 5, 2019 at [www.salisburync.gov/PLAY](http://www.salisburync.gov/PLAY). The fee for this event is \$5.00 per person.

### **(c) Santa and the Grinch Photos**

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced there will be a gathering on December 14, 2019 in downtown Salisbury at Gateway Park located at the corner of Depot Street and East Innes Street for photos with Santa and the Grinch from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., then enjoy free rides on antique fire trucks with Santa and the Grinch from 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Visitors Center located at 204 East Innes Street.

### **(d) New Year's Eve at the Trolley Barn**

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced the City of Salisbury will host the New Year's Eve at the Trolley Barn Celebration on Thursday, December 31, 2019. Celebrate the start of 2020 as a community at the F&M Bank Trolley Barn. There is a temporary location change due to Bell Tower Green Construction. Festivities will begin at 9:00 p.m. and will include light refreshments, live entertainment, live video feed from Times Square and ringing in the New Year at midnight. This event is free and open to the public.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Post recommended the start time of the Council meetings be moved back to 5:00 p.m. Mayor Alexander noted there was discussion about other modifications, and she added other recommended changes would be considered and could be placed on a future Agenda. Councilmember Sheffield suggested discussion of such topics take place during the retreat. Mayor Alexander stated that option could be considered.

### **MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked everyone in attendance. She also thanked staff for all they do for the City. She added she is looking forward to serving as Mayor Pro Tem and working with Mayor Alexander and the rest of Council for the next two years.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Alexander noted she is grateful for all the knowledge and passion that each Councilmember brings to the Council, and she added she looks forward to working with them.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Post. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



Karen K. Alexander, Mayor



Tiffany Crook, Deputy City Clerk